

*The first response to a disaster is a local response.*

What is . . .

# Medical Reserve Corps ?

If a disaster  
happened  
tomorrow . . .  
will you  
be prepared?

The Medical  
Reserve Corps  
prepares you  
to protect  
yourself,  
your family  
and lead  
your community  
in an emergency.



*The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a component of the Citizen Corps and was started in response to the spirit of volunteerism observed after 9/11 and the need for an efficient system to identify and organize volunteers in emergency response.*

## The MRC . . .

- **brings** together local health professionals and others to volunteer in their community. The DeKalb County MRC supplements community emergency response systems as well as contributes to meeting the public health needs of the community throughout the year.
- **creates** teams of medical, public health professionals, and lay people to help during emergencies and disasters, such as an influenza epidemic, chemical spill, or act of terrorism.
- **offers** education to improve the health of neighborhoods and communities.

## What kinds of things do MRC volunteers do?

- **ASSISTANCE CENTERS/SHELTERS** - Setup and breakdown of sites, counseling, errands.
- **SUPPLEMENTAL HOSPITAL STAFF** - Deployment of medical professionals statewide to assist with disasters in a hospital or in the field.
- **ADMINISTRATIVE/OFFICE SETTING** - Assist MRC in tracking volunteers, database entry, mailing letters, etc.
- **PHONE BANK** - Answer a flood of incoming calls that may deal with anthrax, West Nile virus, etc. during an emergency.
- **LEADERSHIP** - All sites need to have leadership personnel.
- **TRAINING/TEACHING** - Assist in training of other MRC members in CPR, First-Aid and other training to enhance the Medical Reserve Corps.
- **PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES** - Assist with public health programs such as flu shots, back-to-school immunizations, epidemiology surveys, public education, health fairs, and more.

## Who can volunteer?

- Community residents without medical training who can assist the primary health teams with administrative services, communications, record-keeping, and many other essential support functions.
- Practicing and retired medical professionals, such as doctors, nurses, emergency medical technicians, pharmacists, hospital-based workers, nurses' assistants, veterinarians, dentists, and others with health/medical training.
- Working and retired professionals in the fields of public health.
- People with skills in fundraising, grant writing, information management, graphic design and video production.

## Why does the MRC need my help?

When a disaster occurs, the minutes, hours and even days immediately following the event can quickly overwhelm local and even regional emergency and medical crews. The MRC volunteers help bolster those numbers and supplement the care that emergency personnel can deliver. This increased capacity means that more people in need can get help quicker than if they were waiting for help from all the usual channels. But perhaps just as important to the MRC mission is the ability to prepare and educate the residents of a community or region about what they can do to be prepared **BEFORE** a disaster occurs.

For more information regarding the DeKalb County Board of Health's Medical Reserve Corps, call **404-294-3796** or email **bidanjaji@gdph.state.ga.us**.



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